



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: Greg Meszaros, Director, Austin Water

Date: October 1, 2019

Subject: October 3, 2019 Council Agenda Item #17 Grounds Maintenance & Mowing Services – Corrected Item Number

Agenda item #17 on the October 3, 2019 Council agenda pertains to grounds maintenance and mowing services for Austin Water. These services are used to maintain about 200 water pump stations and wastewater lift station sites across the City.

On August 22, 2019, Council passed Resolution 20190822-067, which directed the City Manager to determine whether custodial, security, call center, landscaping, and other services should be contracted or provided by City employees and directed associated contract and hiring practice changes.

In response to this resolution, Austin Water, in collaboration with other Departments, is preparing a transition plan to insource landscaping services. At this time, Austin Water is requesting Council approval of contracts to provide landscaping services during the transition period.

Need for Services During Transition Period

Austin Water maintains approximately 200 water pump stations and wastewater lift stations sites across the City. Austin Water must maintain these sites in accordance with community expectations and regulatory requirements, and the sites are subject to inspection by the State of Texas. Although these sites are maintained throughout the year, there are seasonal peaks in vegetation growth and the need for mowing based on weather. These contracts will provide labor, equipment, materials, and supervision to provide grounds maintenance services that can include mowing and trimming of grass and vegetation, removal of trash, and tree and shrub trimming.

In accordance with Council Resolution 20190822-067, Austin Water is working on a plan to insource groundskeeping services and anticipates a transition period of three years to complete that process. The purpose of this transition period is to provide adequate



time to evaluate the optimal insourcing approaches, and budget, procure equipment, and hire staff to perform these services. Austin Water is targeting Fiscal Year 2021 to begin the budgeting for insourced groundskeeping services and anticipates completing the transition by Fiscal Year 2022.

Should you have any questions or would like any additional information please contact me at 512-972-0108 or greg.meszaros@austintexas.gov.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
James Scarboro, Purchasing Officer
Rick Coronado, Assistant Director, Operations
Anna Bryan-Borja, Chief Support Services Officer



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